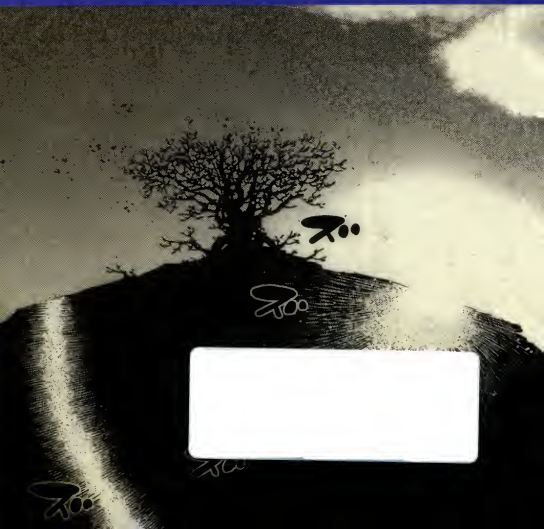
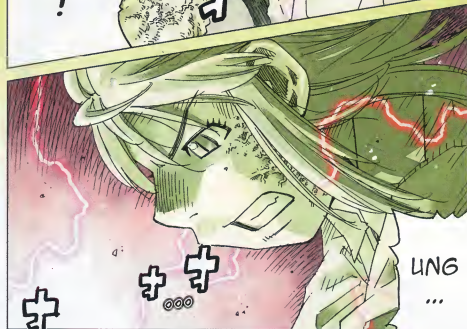
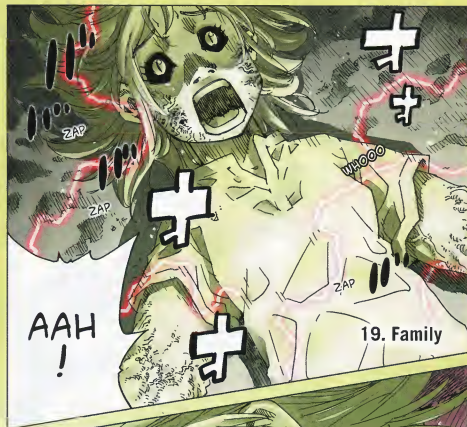


7 Billion Needles

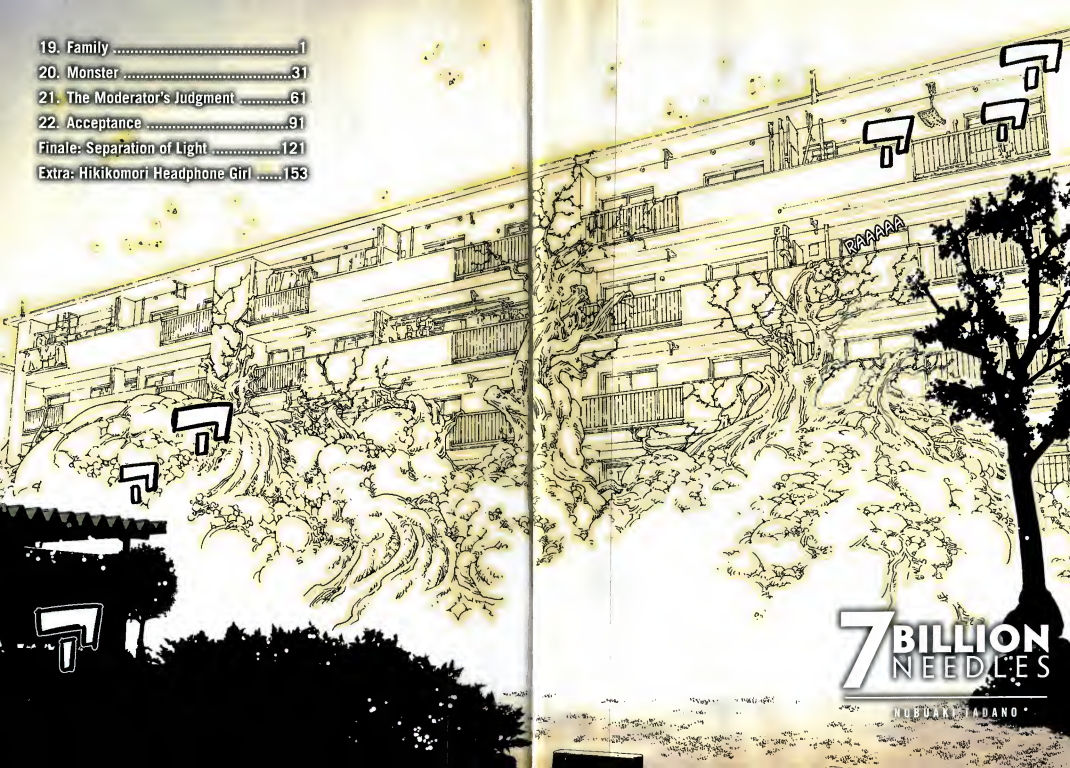
Nobuaki Tadano

Volume 4



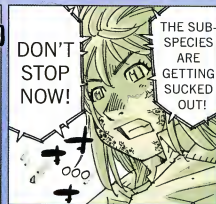
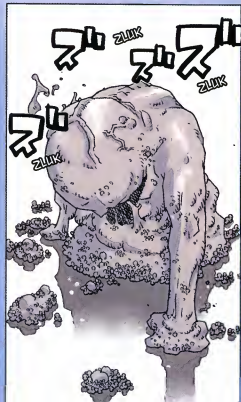
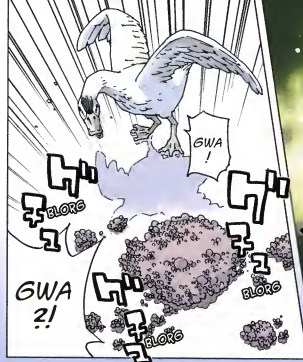


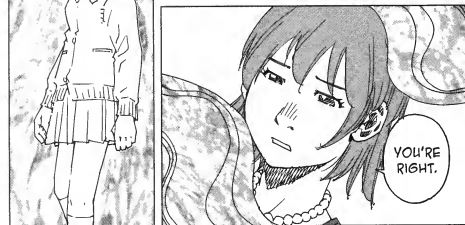
19. Family	1
20. Monster	31
21. The Moderator's Judgment	61
22. Acceptance	91
Finale: Separation of Light	121
Extra: Hikikomori Headphone Girl	153

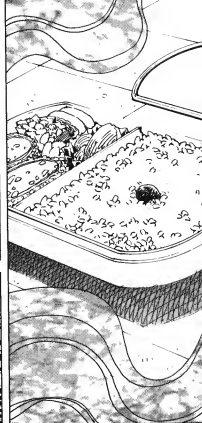
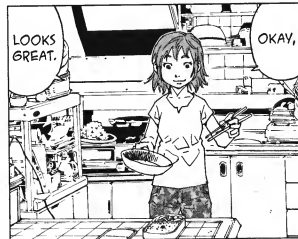
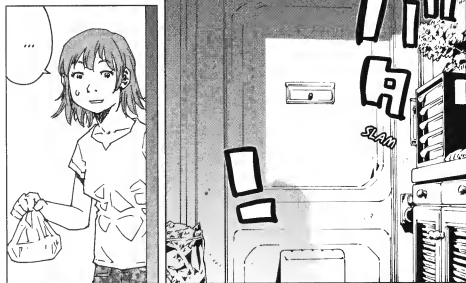


**7 BILLION
NEEDLES**

NUBOKI YADANO









DON'T
EVER
DO THAT.

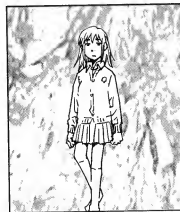
I WAS
JUST
CLEAN-
ING UP...



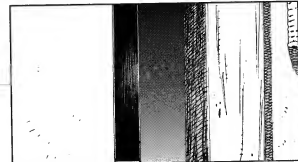
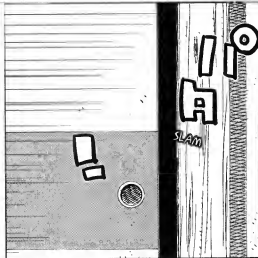
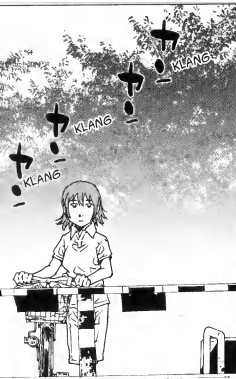
HUH?



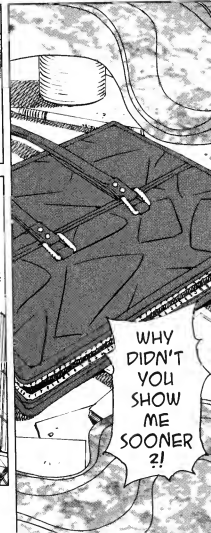
SO YOU
WENT
IN MY
ROOM?



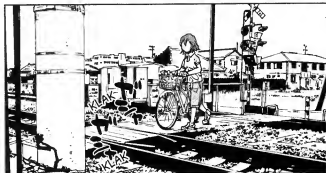
MAYBE
I'M JUST
NOT GOOD
AT RAISING
KIDS...

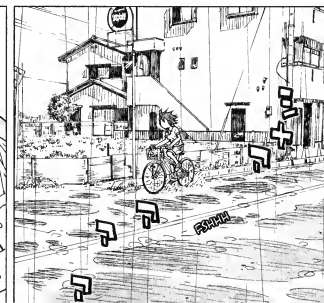
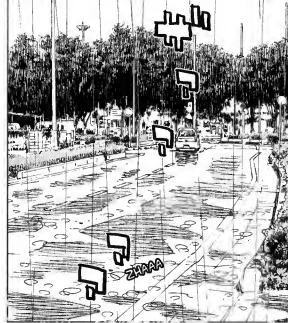
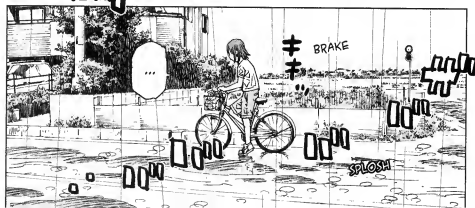


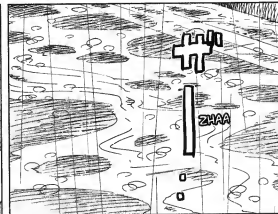
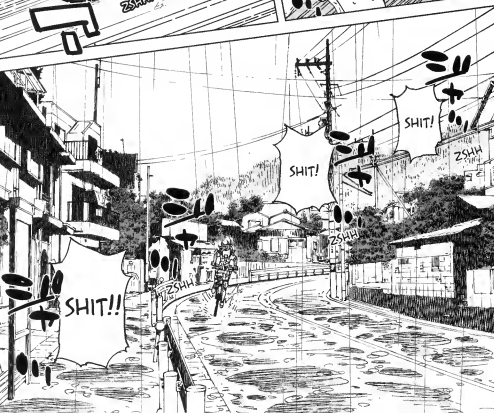
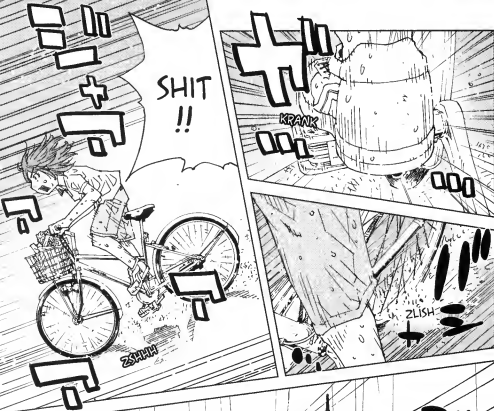
I TOLD
YOU TO
SHOW ME
EVERY
NOTICE
FROM THE
SCHOOL!



WHY
DIDN'T
YOU
SHOW
ME
SOONER
?!



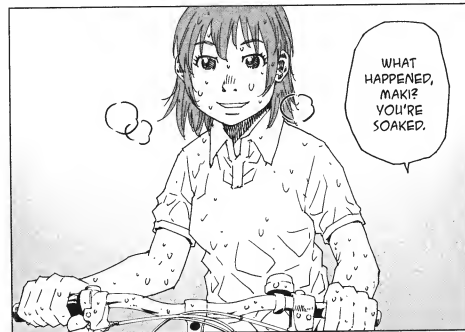
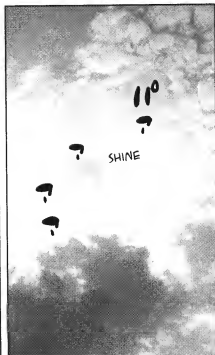
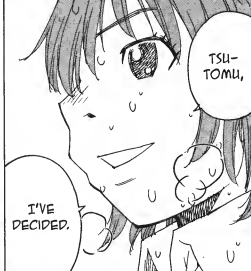


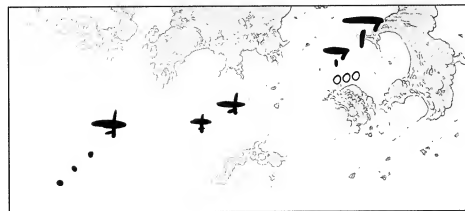
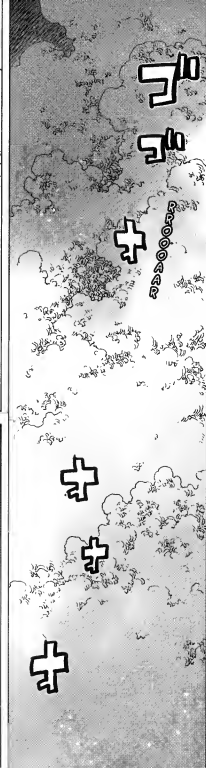


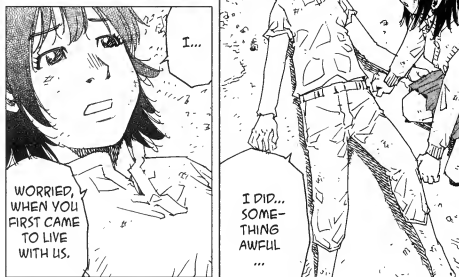
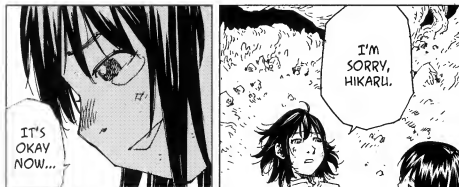
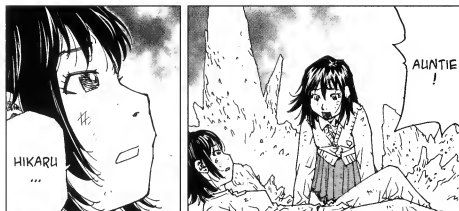


29444

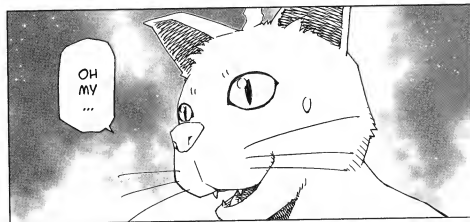
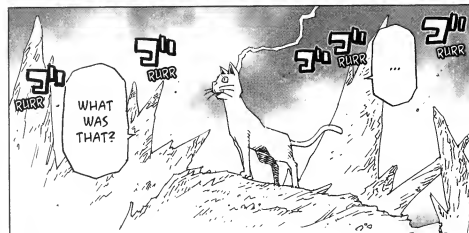
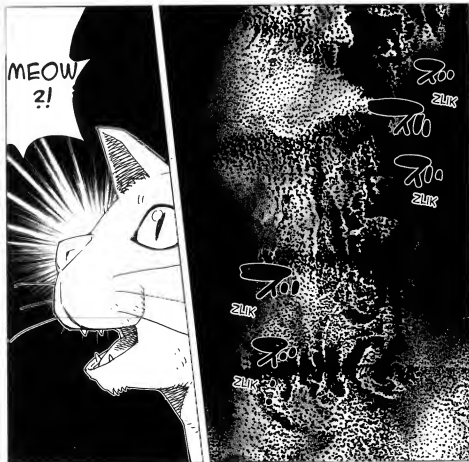
SHIIIT!!

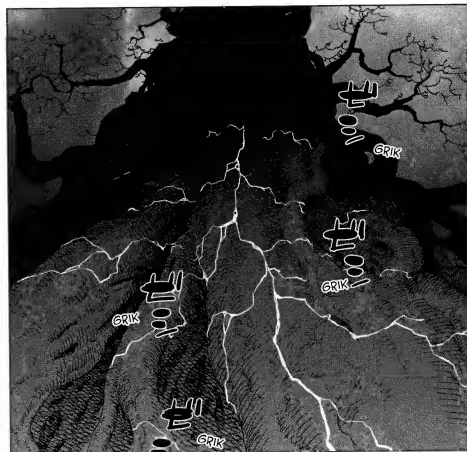


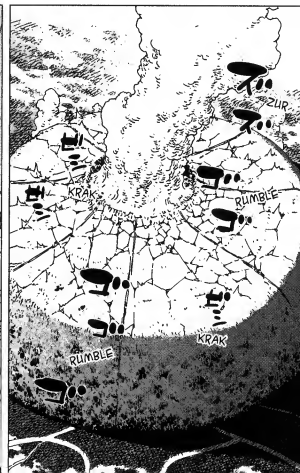
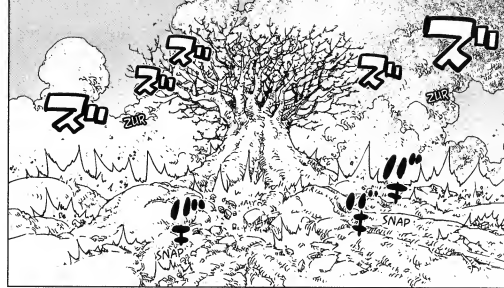
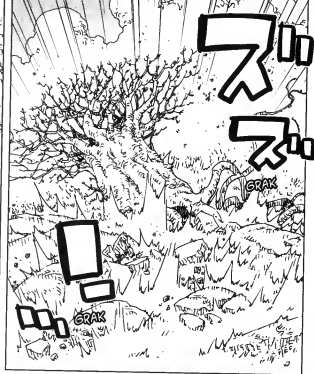






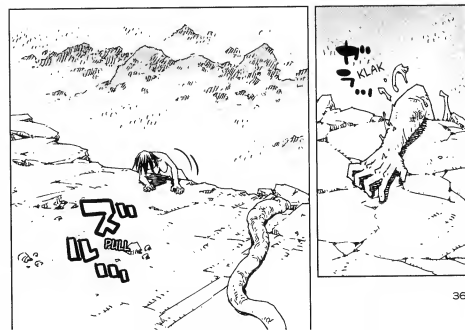
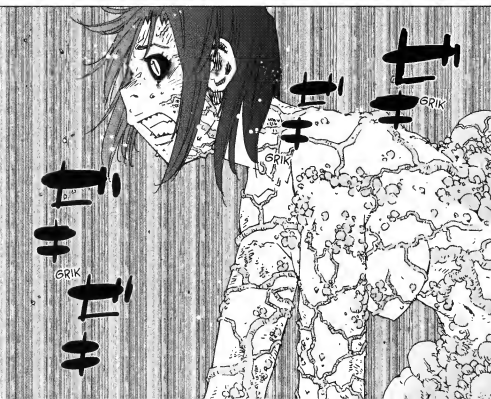
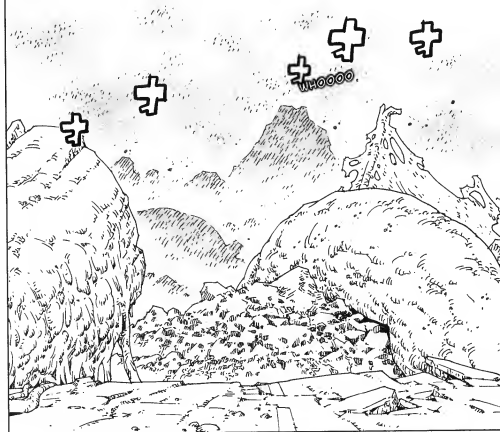




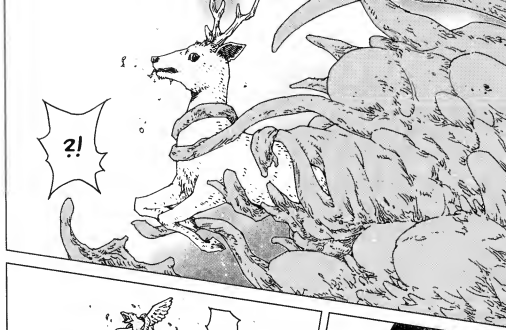
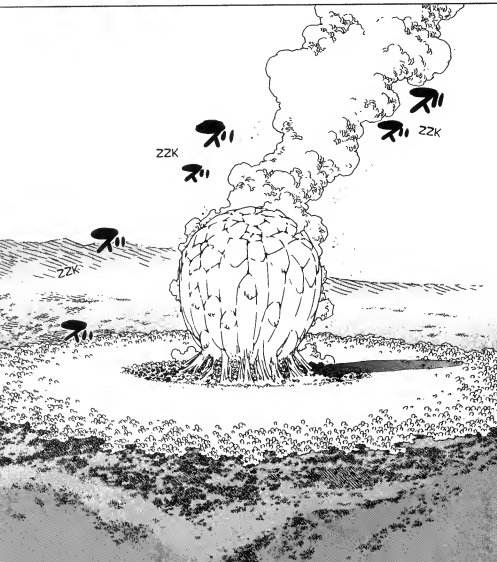
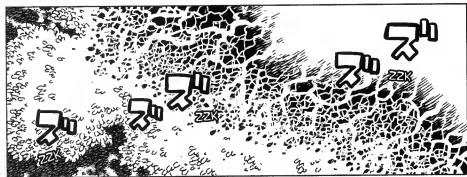


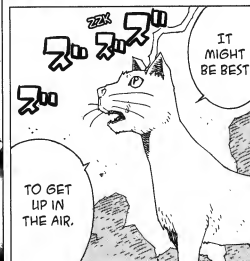
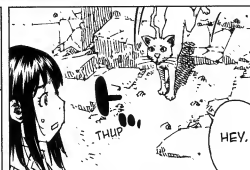
20. Monster

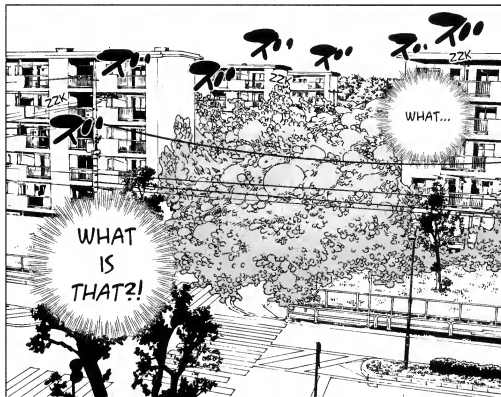














THAT'S
NAO'S
HOUSE!!



AH!
WAIT!



IT'S THE
OUTCOME
OF THE
SELECTION
AND
EVOLUTION
OF LIFE ON THIS
PLANET.



D-DO-
DON'T
...

LEAVE
ME
ALONE
!!

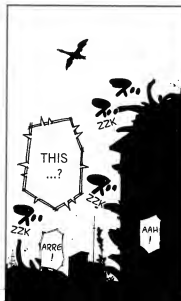


HURRY
UP,
YOU
TWO!



ACK!

MOM
!!



THIS
...?

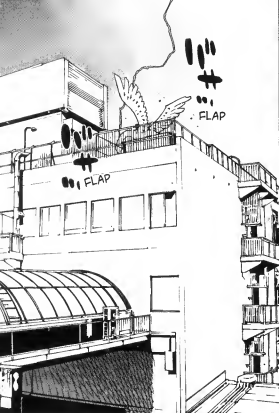
ARGH



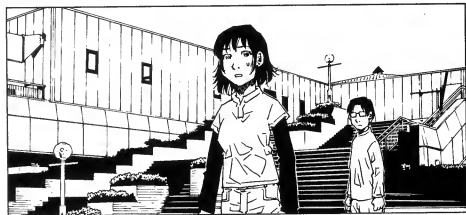
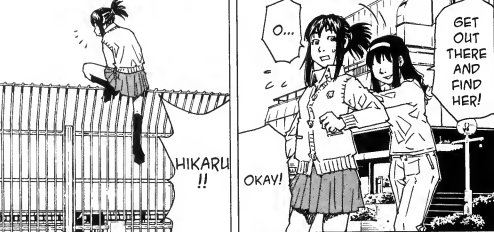
HEL-

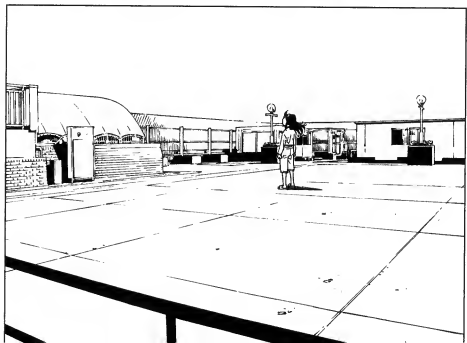
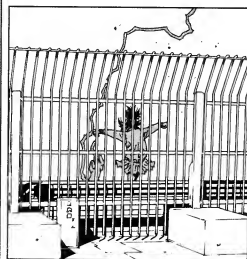
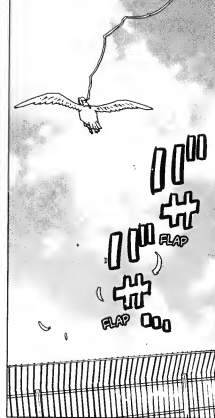
EEK














AND
WHETHER
OR NOT IT
SHOULD ALL
BE TURNED
BACK.

WE NEED TO
SEE WHAT'S
THERE AND
WHAT'S NOT,



AND
WHETHER
OR NOT IT
SHOULD ALL
BE TURNED
BACK.

WE NEED TO
SEE WHAT'S
THERE AND
WHAT'S NOT,

WANNA
TEAR
THROUGH
THAT
MONSTER
MASS?

SO, WHAT
NOW?

NO!! SAYA
AND CHIKA
MIGHT BE IN
THERE!

WANNA
TEAR
THROUGH
THAT
MONSTER
MASS?

SO, WHAT
NOW?

NO!! SAYA
AND CHIKA
MIGHT BE IN
THERE!

WANNA
TEAR
THROUGH
THAT
MONSTER
MASS?

SO, WHAT
NOW?

NO!! SAYA
AND CHIKA
MIGHT BE IN
THERE!

HEAD TO THE DOME.

THE CENTER OF IT...

HEAD TO THE DOME.

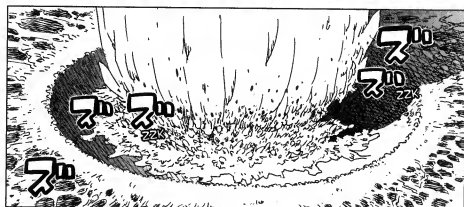
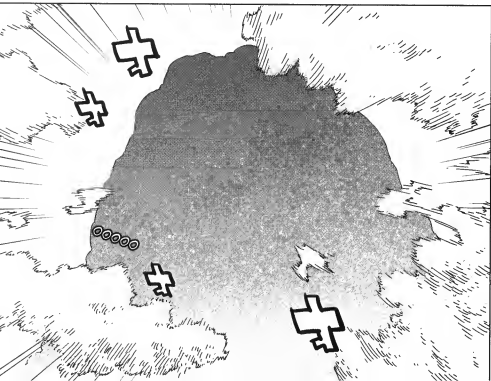
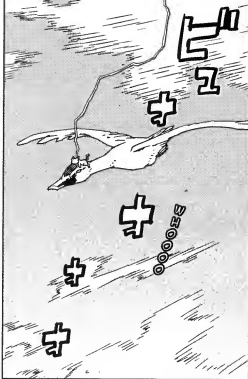
THE CENTER OF IT...

THE CENTER?
THAT
THING HAS
A CENTER
?

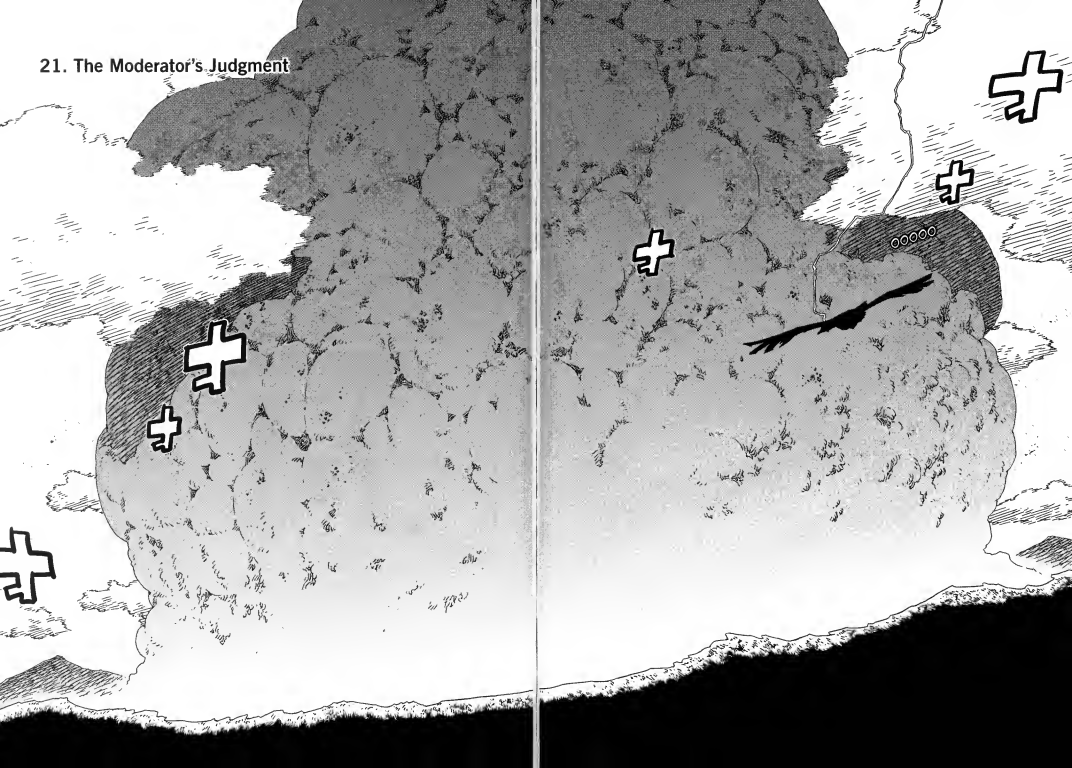
ISN'T
IT JUST
SPRAWLING
OUT
WITHOUT
RHYME OR
REASON?

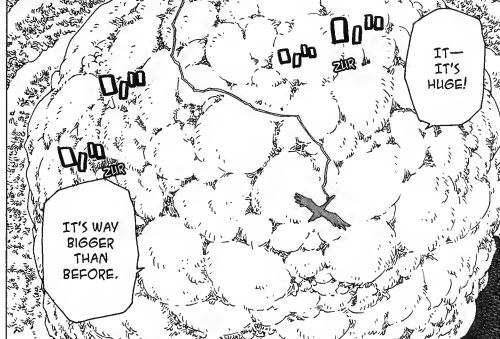
THE CENTER?
THAT
THING HAS
A CENTER
?

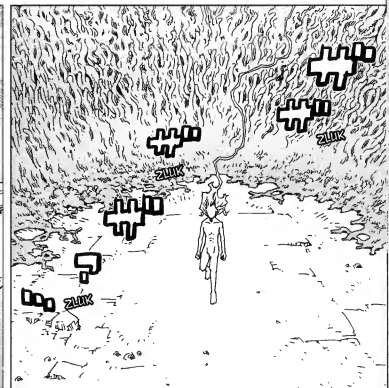
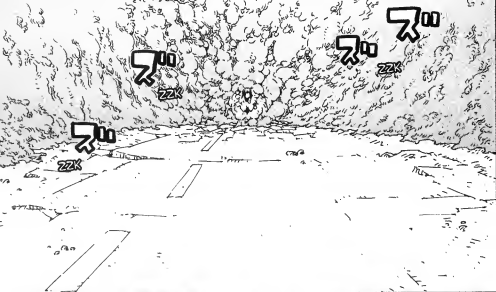
ISN'T
IT JUST
SPRAWLING
OUT
WITHOUT
RHYME OR
REASON?



21. The Moderator's Judgment



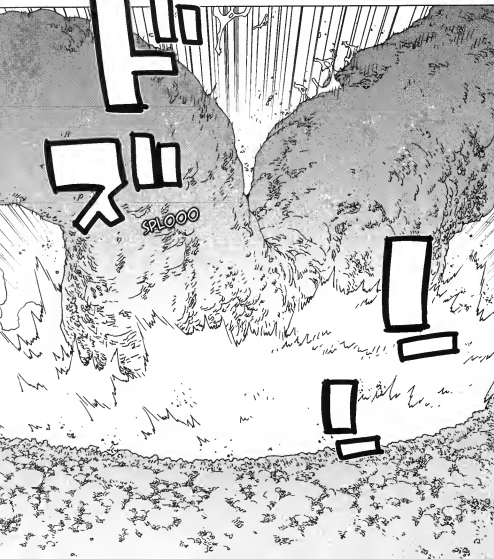






YOU JOIN WITH
EVERYTHING—
WHAT HAPPENS
IF YOU DIE?

LET ME
ASK
THIS,
THEN.



ド
ン
ス
ン

ス
ロ
ウ
ウ
ウ

!

!



WHY
AREN'T I
ALONE?

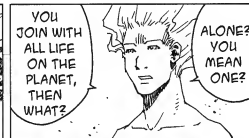
WHO...
ARE
YOU?



IF THAT'S
THE CASE,
PERHAPS
UNITY ISN'T
MEANING-
LESS.



YOU
JOIN WITH
ALL LIFE
ON THE
PLANET,
THEN
WHAT?



ALONE?
YOU
MEAN
ONE?



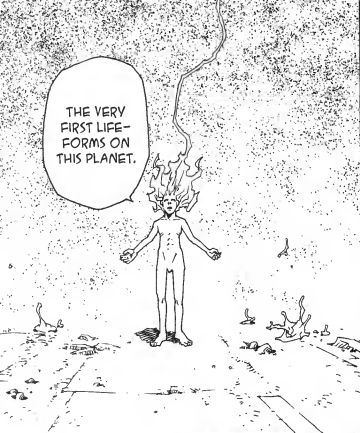
YOU
TALK
TOO
MUCH.

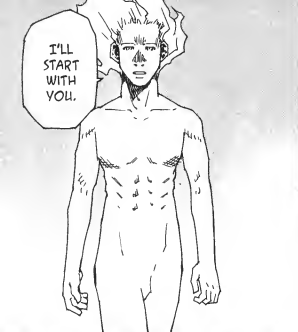
GLARE

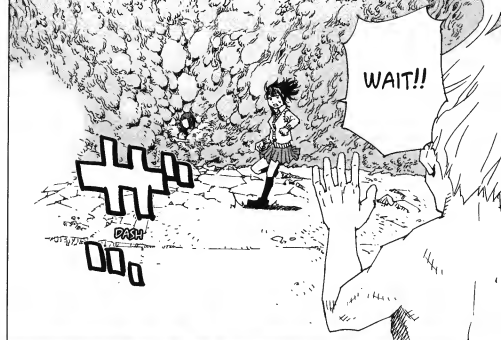
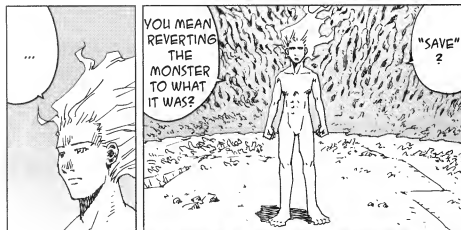


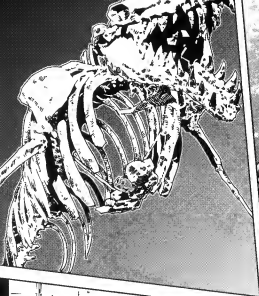
IF I'M ONE
WITH
EVERYBODY,
THEN
NOBODY...

NOBODY
WILL BE
LONELY
OR HURT









I NOTE
EXCESSIVE
FORMS DUE
TO
EXCESSIVE
CHANGE.



I PROCEED TO
MODERATE,
AS ALWAYS,
BALANCING
AND
PRESERVING
THE BIOTA.

THIS IS MY
ROLE ALSO
PRESERVED.



HAVE
CON-
FUSED
ME.

BUT YOU,
AND
THOSE
INSIDE
YOU,



ARE
VERY
INTER-
ESTING.

YOU
3

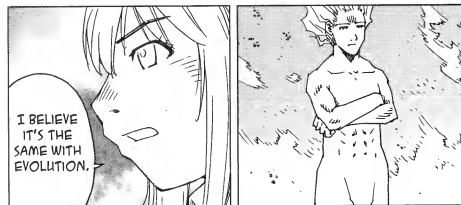
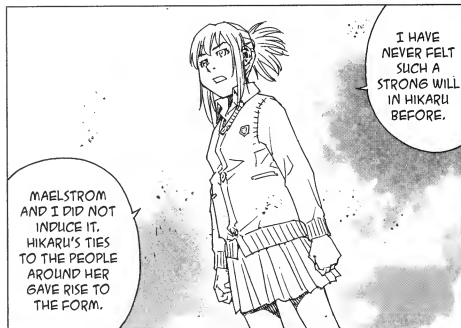
SO, PLEASE
...

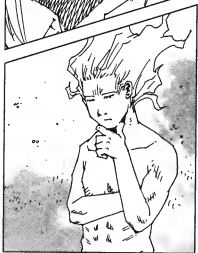
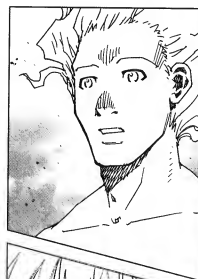
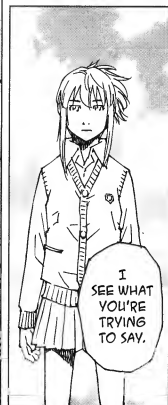


IF I
COULD
SAVE MY
AUNT I
SHOULD BE
ABLE TO
SAVE
EVERY-
ONE.



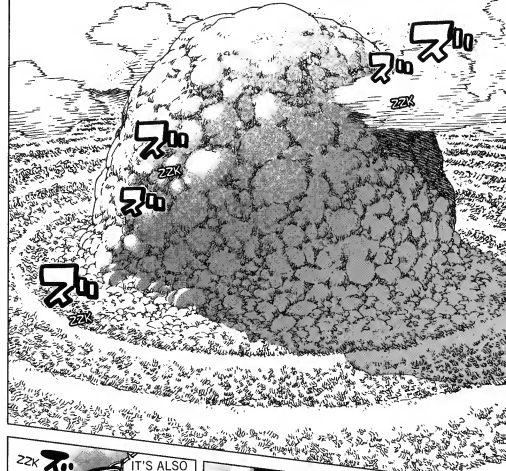
DESCENDING
AT THE
ONSET OF
THIS PLANET'S
MACRO-
EVOLUTION...

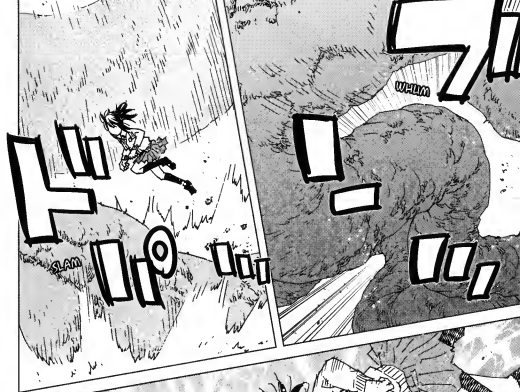
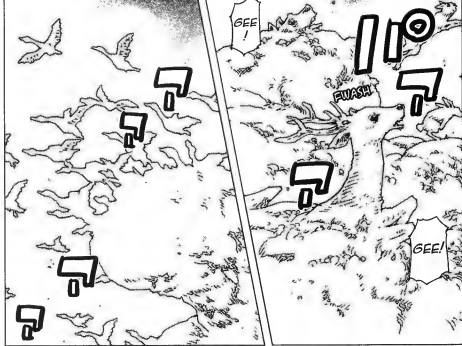


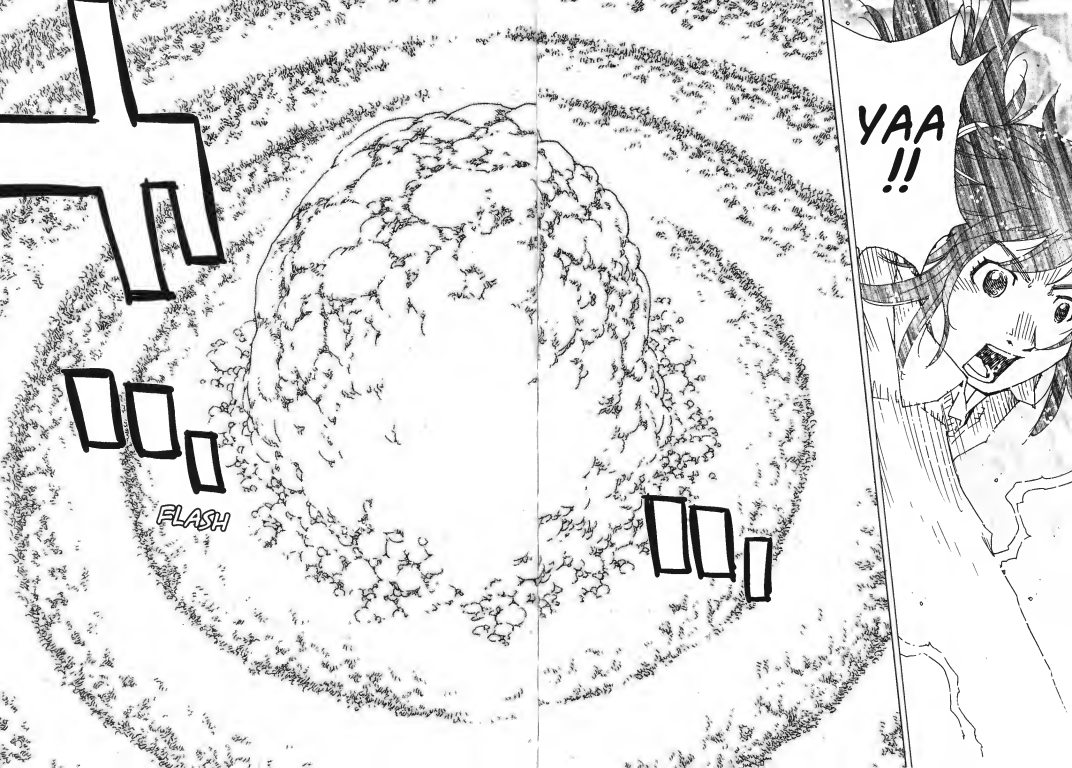


MAY IT BE
THAT THE
FUTURE OF
LIFE ON THIS
PLANET
DOESN'T
REQUIRE OUR
INTERFERENCE
?





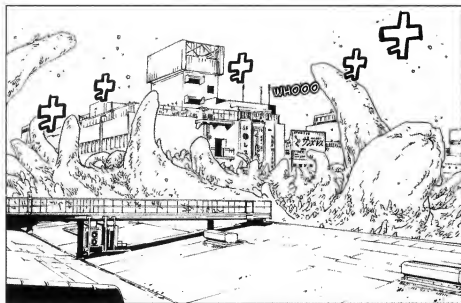


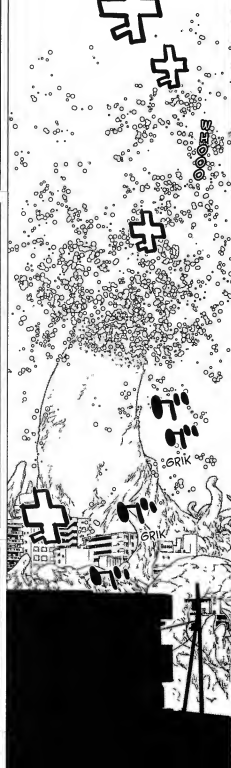


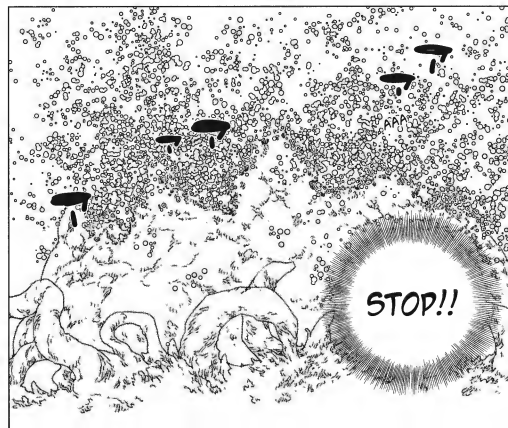
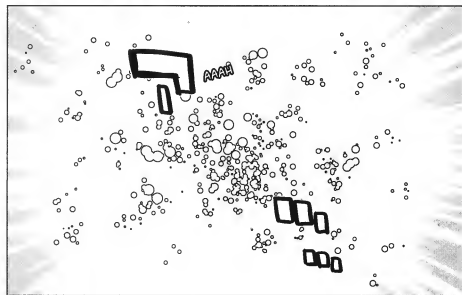
YAA
!!

FLASH

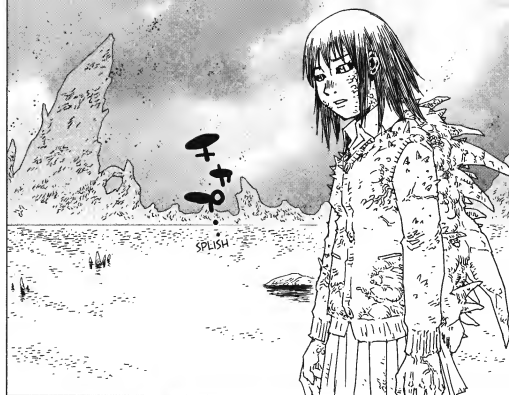
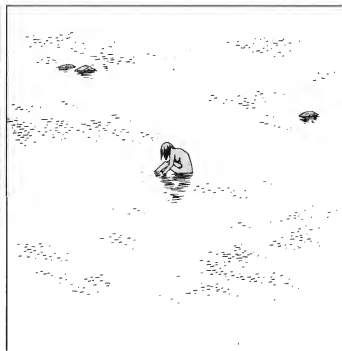
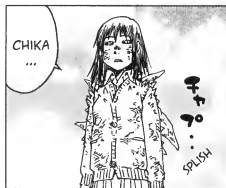


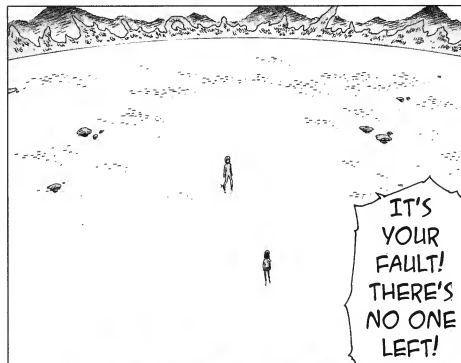
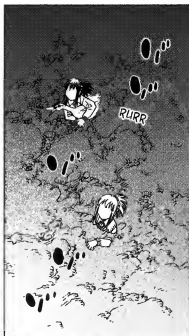




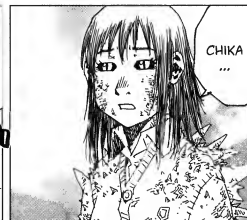
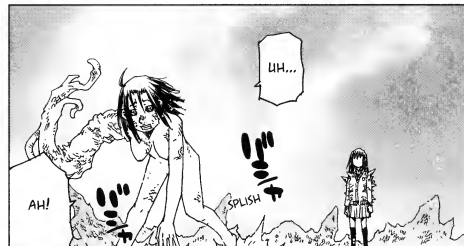


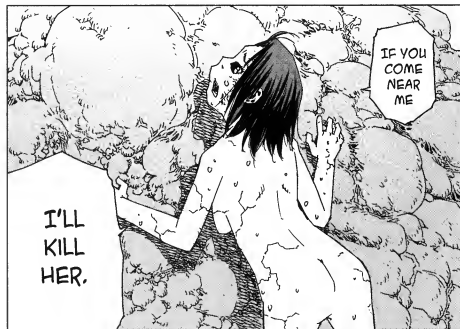













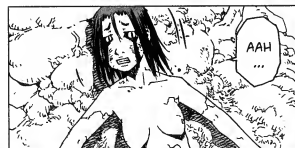
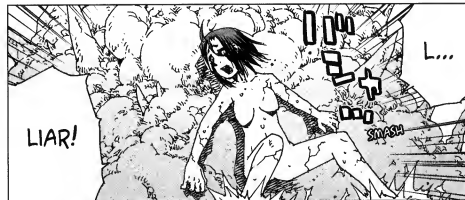
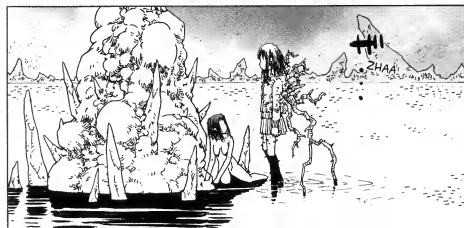


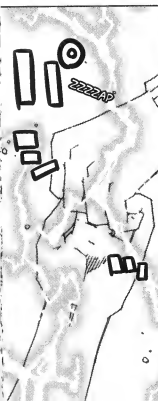


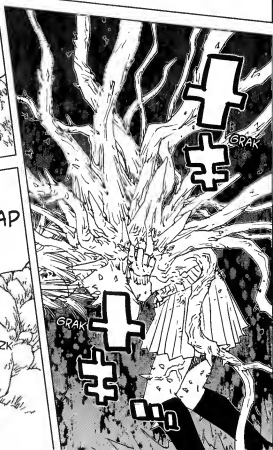
WILL YOU
BE MY
FRIEND?

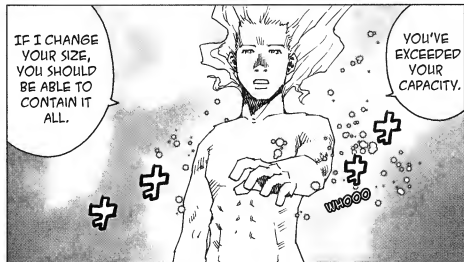
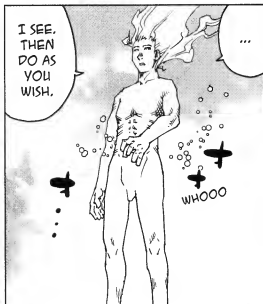


I'VE
BEEN
WANTING
TO ASK...

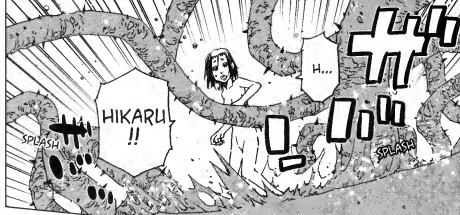




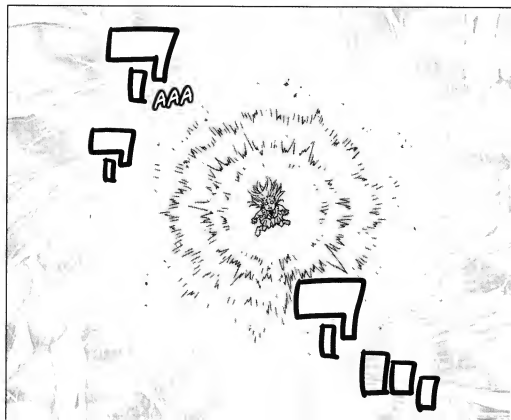
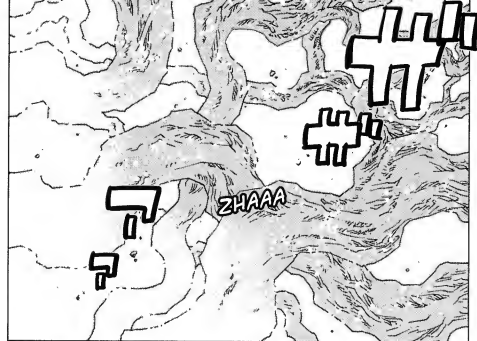


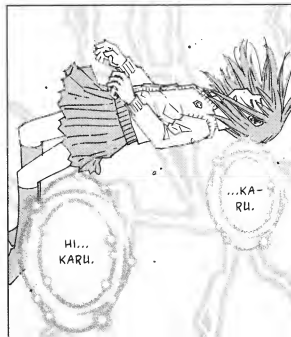
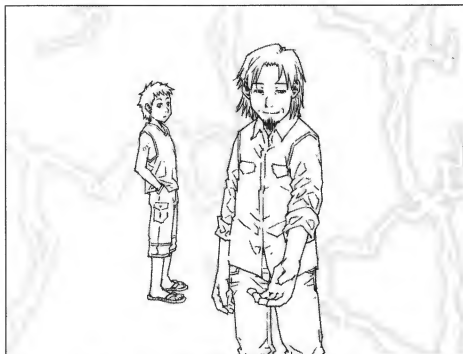


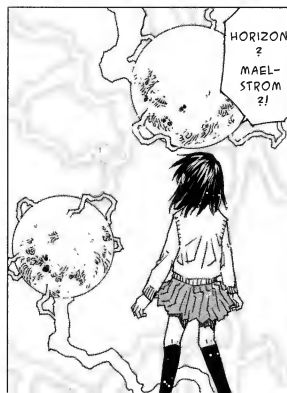
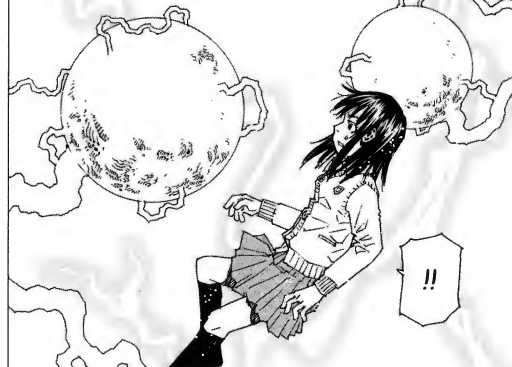
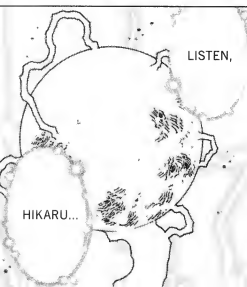
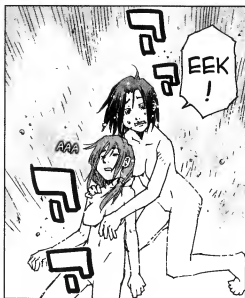


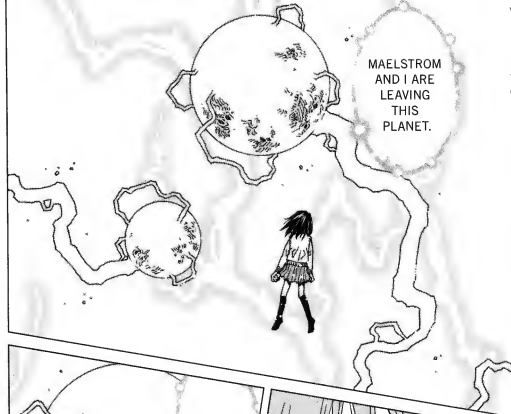


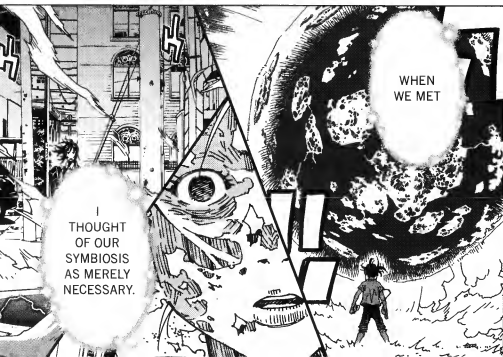
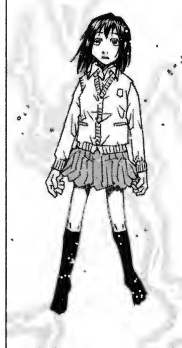















THANK
YOU,
HIKARU.




IT WAS
ENTIRELY
UNEXPECTED.
RIGHT,
MAELSTROM?

BUT AS YOU
CHANGED,
MAELSTROM
AND I WERE
AFFECTED: WE
CHANGED, TOO.

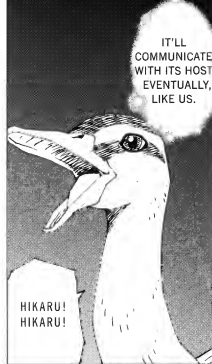
BRR
DE
BRR

TSK,
I GUESS.



IT
NEVER
WOULD'VE
HAPPENED
OTHER-
WISE.

I MET
NONE OTHER
THAN YOU,
A ONE-IN-
7 BILLION
CHANCE
...



IT'LL
COMMUNICATE
WITH ITS HOST
EVENTUALLY,
LIKE US.

HIKARU!
HIKARU!



DON'T
WORRY.

BUT
A SUB-
SPECIES
...



THAT
THEY
CAN
GROW
AND
LEARN.

OUR RE-
SEARCH
HAS
FOUND



GWAK!
GWAK!

HIKARU,
DON'T
CRY!



WHAT
WAS
THAT?



* SNIFF *



* SOB *

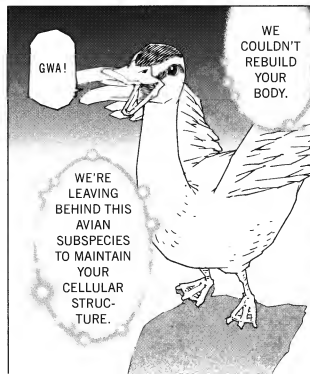
* SOB *

* WEEP *



MANY MORE
MAY APPEAR,
BUT THEY'LL BE SIGNS
OF A NEW EVOLUTION
YOU'VE OBTAINED—
PROBABLY.

THE CHAOS
ON THIS PLANET
WILL SETTLE AS THE
SUBSPECIES GROW
AND EVOLVE.



GWA!

WE
COULDN'T
REBUILD
YOUR
BODY.

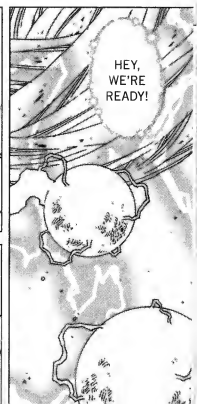
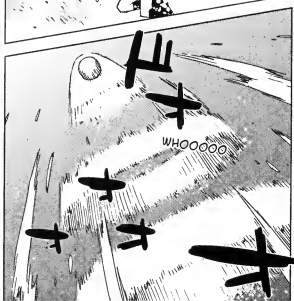
WE'RE
LEAVING
BEHIND THIS
AVIAN
SUBSPECIES
TO MAINTAIN
YOUR
CELLULAR
STRUC-
TURE.



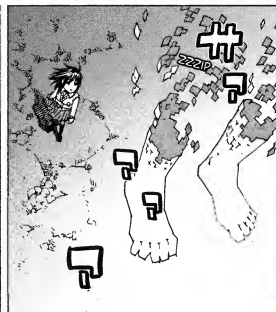
UH,
SORRY.

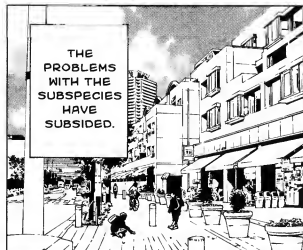
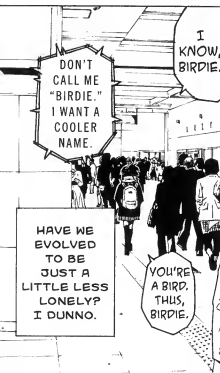
I
FORGOT
TO TELL
YOU.

110
FLASH











7 BILLION NEEDLES

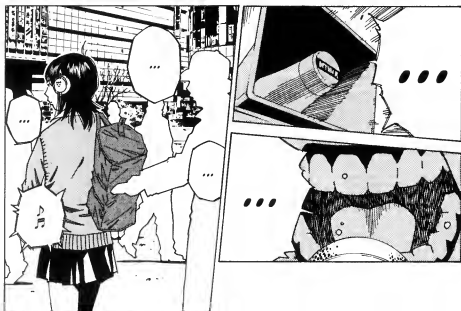
Fin

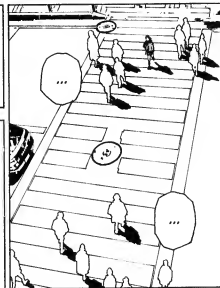


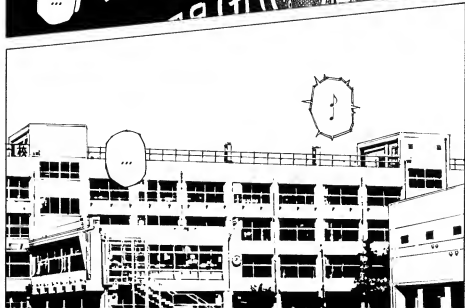
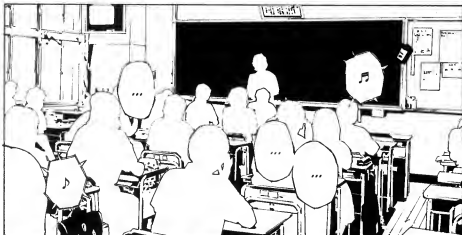
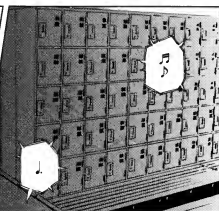


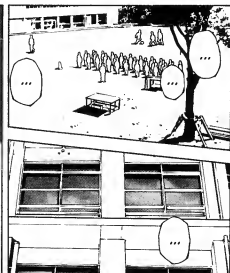
HIKIKOMORI ヒキコモリ headphone girl ヘッドホンガール

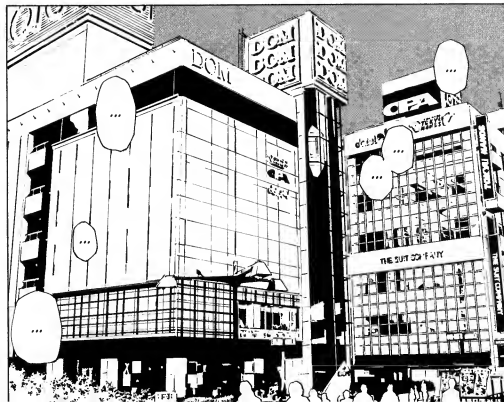
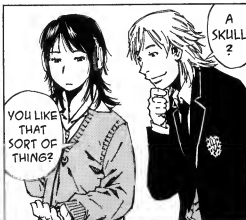
The following short was created before *7 Billion Needles* was serialized. It features a character who is Hikaru's prototype. "Hikikomori" means *shut-in*: someone who never leaves his or her room, for years in the worst cases.

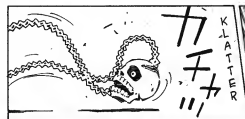
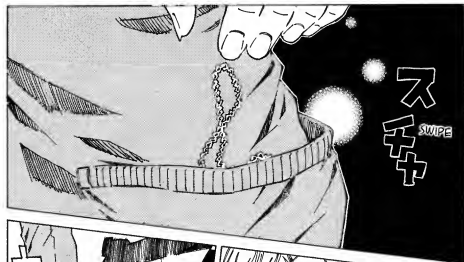
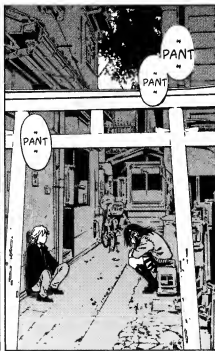


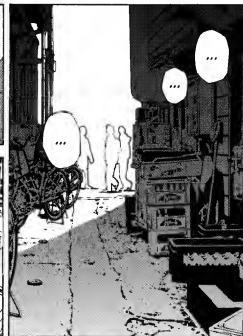
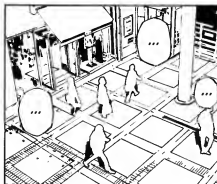


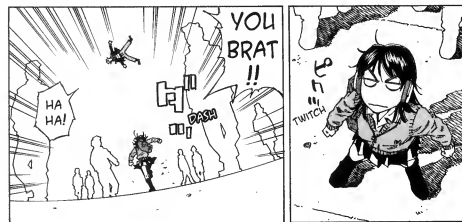


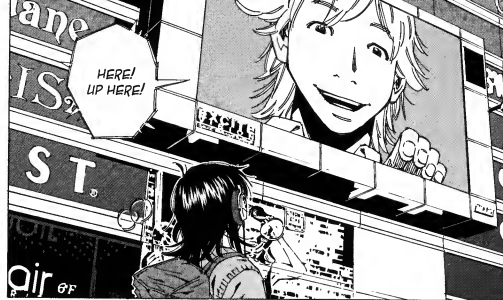




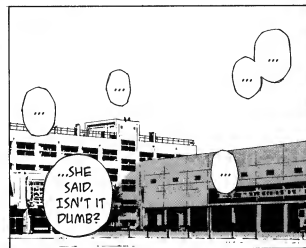


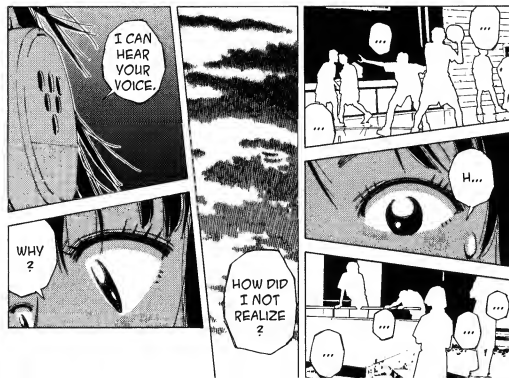
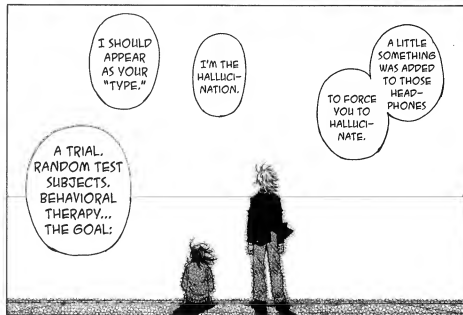


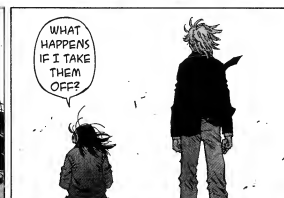


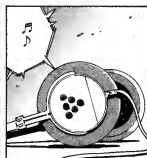








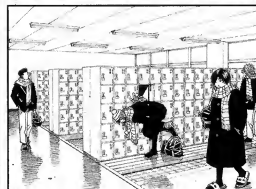




HIKIKOMORI ヒキコモリ ヘッドホンガール headphone girl

The End





Rough Designs





Early Images

HIKARU'S DAY

